

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 0519

REF: MANILA 10406, 11273 AND 8377

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, RP (GERLOCK, EDWARD M)

SUBJECT: W/W: EDWARD M. GERLOCK

SUMMARY: ON EXTREMELY SHORT NOTICE, GOP IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES HAVE RELEASED DECISION IN GERLOCK CASE PLACING HIM ON PROBATION FOR THREE YEARS AND BARRING ANY RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY OUTSIDE MANILA AREA. DECISION CAME AS EMBASSY WAS INTERNALLY CLEARING DIPLOMATIC NOTE URGING SPEEDY RESOLUTION OF CASE. DECISION IS WORD-FOR-WORD WITH UNRELEASED DECISION (REFTELS) EXCEPT FOR PROVISIO QUOTE HE SHALL CONFINE HIS RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE GREATER MANILA AREA UNQUOTE.

1. DECISION IN GERLOCK CASE RELEASED MONDAY AFTERNOON BY IMMIGRATION COMMISSIONER REYES PLACING PRIEST ON THREE YEARS PROBATION ALTHOUGH ACQUITTING HIM OF ALL FIVE FORMAL CHARGES. DECISION WAS READ AT HEARING CONVENED ON EXTREMELY SHORT NOTICE, BUT BIBLE GRAPEVINE PASSED WORD QUICKLY ENOUGH TO ALLOW ABOUT SIXTY GERLOCK WELL-WISHERS TO ATTEND. FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC MEDIA ALSO PRESENT. DECISION IS DATED JANUARY 9, AND IS IDENTICAL TO UNDATED, UNRELEASED EARLIER VERSION EXCEPT FOR ADDITION OF PARAGRAPH ENJOINING GERLOCK TO CONFINE HIS MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES TO THE MANILA AREA WHERE HE IS PRESENTLY WORKING. ALTHOUGH REYES CONFIRMED THAT INFORMAL TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS WITHIN THE PHILIPPINES ARE LIFTED (MANILA 8377), HE SAID GERLOCK COULD NOT GO BACK TO WORK IN
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DAVAO OR ELSEWHERE OUTSIDE MANILA. GERLOCK'S LAWYER, FORMER

SENATOR TANADA, WAS INFORMED THROUGH GERLOCK'S RELIGIOUS ORDER ONLY MONDAY MORNING.

2. DECISION WAS PROMULGATED WHILE EMBASSY WAS IN PROCESS OF INTERNALLY CLEARING DIPLOMATIC NOTE PRESSING FOR SPEEDY CONCLUSION OF CASE. EMBOFFS HAD DISCUSSED CONTENT AND TIMING OF NOTE WITH GERLOCK AND TANADA LAST THURSDAY, ONLY 24 HOURS BEFORE TANADA INFORMED OF HEARING. COMMENT: WHILE TIMING SUGGESTS MORE THAN COINCIDENCE, GERLOCK HAD PREVIOUSLY TOLD EMBOFFS THAT TANADA UNWILLING TO PRESS YEYES FOR DECISION BECAUSE OF TENSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO. GIVEN TANADA'S ANTI-ADMINISTRATION POSTURE, POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT TIMING WAS COINCIDENCE, AND NOT RESULT OF TANADA-REYES COOPERATION.
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